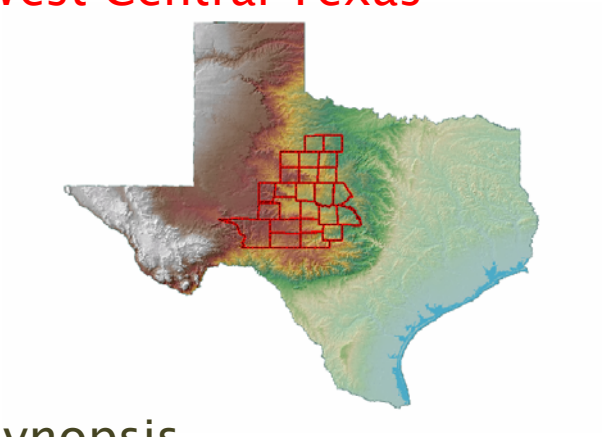
DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT
WFO SAN ANGELO, TX
ISSUED: APRIL 6, 2006

West Central Texas



Synopsis

During the last half of March, numerous showers occurred over West Central Texas which gave some respite from the persistent dry weather pattern. The monthly total rainfall during March is shown in figure 1. The needed moisture lessened the intensity of current drought conditions in some parts of the region and provided a boost to the suffering agricultural areas.

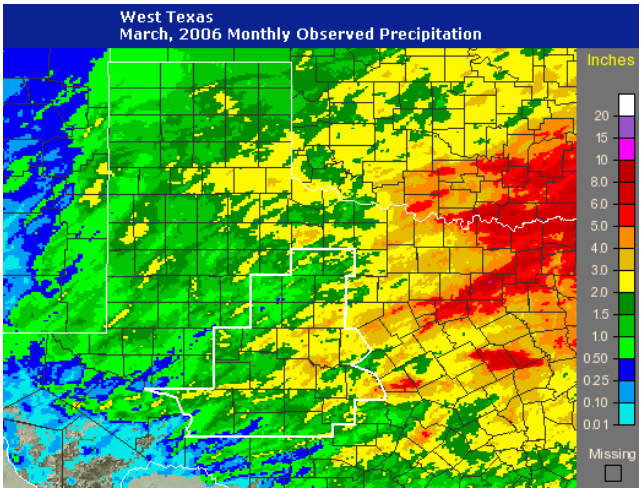


Figure 1 - March, 2006 Rainfall

As shown in figure 2, the U.S. Drought Monitor, issued through the National Drought Mitigation Center on April 4, shows that most of West Central Texas is experiencing severe drought conditions. Western portions of the Concho Valley and Northern Edwards Plateau are experiencing moderate drought conditions.

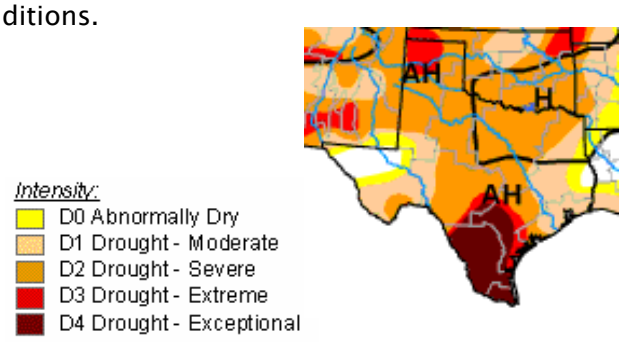


Figure 2 - April 4, U.S. Drought Monitor

The "AH" in figure 2 indicates that the current drought impacts are both agricultural and hydrological.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a comprehensive drought monitoring effort between government and academic partners. It is issued each Thursday morning and incorporates hydrometeorological data through 6 AM Tuesday.

Hydrologic Impacts

According to the USGS WaterWatch, portions of the Clear Fork Brazos River, Hubbard Creek, Llano River, Colorado River and tributaries to the North Concho River are reporting below normal flows for this time of the year. A few reservoirs across the region experienced minor increases in volume from the rain in March. However, additional moisture is needed to

improve hydrologic conditions across the area.

Reservoir conditions as of April 5, 2006, are presented in the following table.

Reservoir	Current Elevation (ft)	Current Capacity (ac-ft)	% Full
Fort Phantom Hill	1628.00	43,620	62
Lake Stamford	1415.75	46,410	90
Hubbard Creek	1171.60	180,180	57
Hords Creek	1896.19	6,360	78
Lake Brownwood	1422.35	117,800	90
E.V. Spence	1852.39	89,450	17
O.C. Fisher	1872.60	12,890	11
O.H. Ivie	1534.37	286,800	52
Twin Buttes	1916.85	59,800	32
Lake Nasworthy	1870.99	8,440	83

According to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), there are at least 12 public water supply systems affected by water use restrictions across West Central Texas. Figure 3 shows all locations of affected systems across Texas.

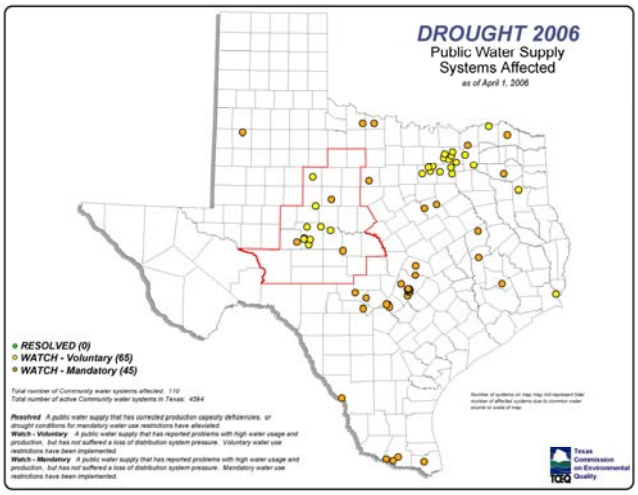


Figure 3 - Water Systems Under Water Use Restrictions as of April 1, 2006.

Fire Danger Impacts

As of April 6, most West Central Texas counties continue to enforce county wide outdoor burn bans. Several West Central Texas counties also have disaster declarations established due to the dry conditions.

The Texas Forest Service indicates that fire risk potential remains at serious levels. The Texas Forest Service uses the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) as a system for relating current and recent weather conditions to potential or expected fire behavior. It is a numerical index calculated daily for each county. Each number is an estimate of the amount of precipitation, in hundredths of an inch, needed to bring the soil back to saturation. The index ranges form 0 to 800, with 0 representing a saturated soil and 800 a completely dry soil. As shown in figure 4, the April 5 issuance of the KBDI shows that parts of the Northwest Hill Country fall within the 400 to 500 range. In this range, fires will readily burn in all directions exposing mineral soils in some locations. Larger fuels may burn or smolder for several days creating possible smoke and control problems. Overall, expected fire behavior has improved since recent rains. The KBDI for the remainder of West Central Texas falls within the 200 to 400 range.

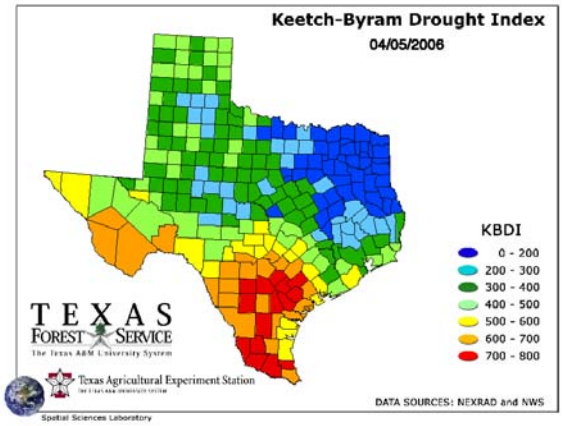


Figure 4 - KBDI Map

The Texas Forest Service advises to watch out for key weather thresholds of winds above 15 mph and relative humidity below 25 percent. When these thresholds are exceeded, expect the fire danger to be elevated.

Agricultural Impacts

The Climate Prediction Center analyzes the percent of available soil moisture as compared to normal. As of April 4, the available soil moisture ranges from 20 to 30 percent of normal across West Central Texas. Due to the March rains, soil moisture has improved across much of the area. Figure 5 depicts available soil moisture percentiles.

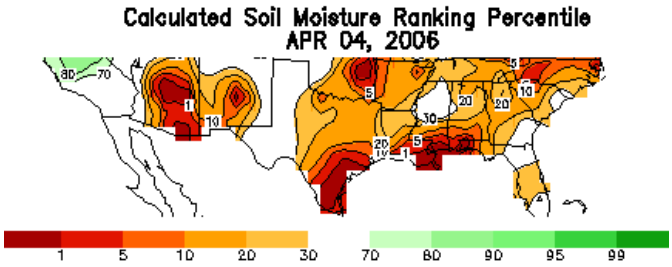


Figure 5 - Percent Available Soil Moisture

According to a Texas Crop Weather Report issued on April 4, from the Texas A&M Agriculture Program, the following agricultural impacts were noted across West Central Texas:

- Rain was reported in many counties bringing improvements in rangeland and pastures.
- Some cotton producers were preparing fields.
- Wheat yields are expected to be low.
- Farmers in areas that received recent rains were plowing fields in preparation for planting hay crops.
- Livestock remained in poor to fair condition.
- Hay supplies were very short and producers continued with supplemental feeding of cattle.
- Livestock water sources were short in many areas.
- Pecan trees were budding out.

Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center Outlook for April through June calls for an increased chance for warmer than normal temperatures across Texas (figure 6). The extended outlook also shows much of West Central Texas in an area of enhanced chances of below normal precipitation through June (figure 7).

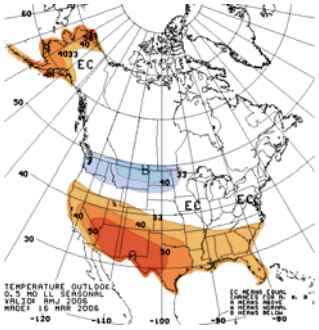


Figure 6 - Temperature Outlook

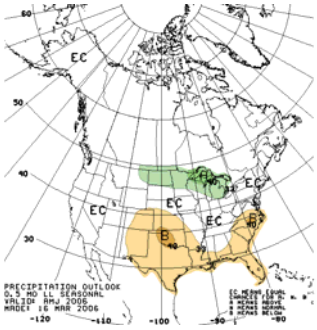


Figure 7 - Precipitation Outlook

As shown in figure 8, the latest U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook shows that current drought conditions across West Central Texas are expected to persist through June.

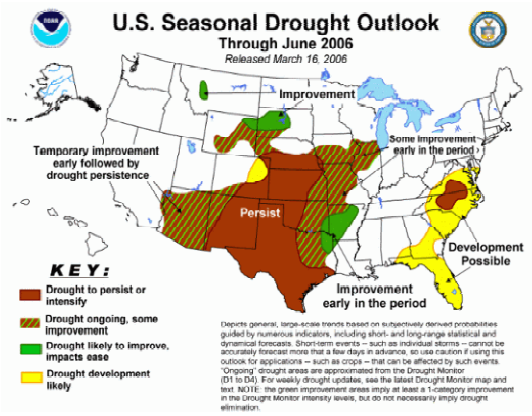


Figure 8 - U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Map

Contact Information:
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Website: www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt
Email: nws.sanangelo@noaa.gov

Drought Related Links:

The U.S. Drought Monitor:
http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm

The USGS WaterWatch:
http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch

TCEQ Map of Water Systems under Water Use Restriction
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/util_water/drought.html

The Texas Counties Burn Ban Map:
http://www.tamu.edu/ticc

The KDBI County Average Map:
http://webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/kbdi_daily/kbdicounty.png

CPC Soil Moisture:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/soilmst/w.shtml

Texas AgNews:
http://agnews.tamu.edu/index.html

CPC Outlook Maps:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/

CPC U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html